

Paragraph Writing

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What is a Paragraph?



A paragraph is often defined as a group of related sentences in which one single, **main idea is developed.**

In a typical paragraph, *the first sentence declares the main topic* of the paragraph and the rest of the sentences *develop or support* the main idea.

A paragraph is most often a part of a longer

What is Paragraph Writing

- A paragraph is defined as one writing unit of group of sentences or one sentence, which describes one main controlling idea or theme and maintains consistent flow of related ideas expressed in the sentences.



In short, a paragraph is. . .

- A group of sentences
- A clear main idea
- Supporting information
- Part of a longer composition
- A miniature essay!

Example of Paragraph

- Online education is the gift of tremendous advancement of technology. The technology has brought knowledge within the reach of everyone. Online education has made everyone to get easy access to the knowledge. It is derived from distance education which was started long time ago. It has opened new horizons for many poor ambitious students to get higher education.

A good paragraph has . . .

- Unity
- Support
- Coherence
- Good Language
- Variety of Structures

Unity

- One main idea
- Topic Sentence
- Other sentences support

Coherence

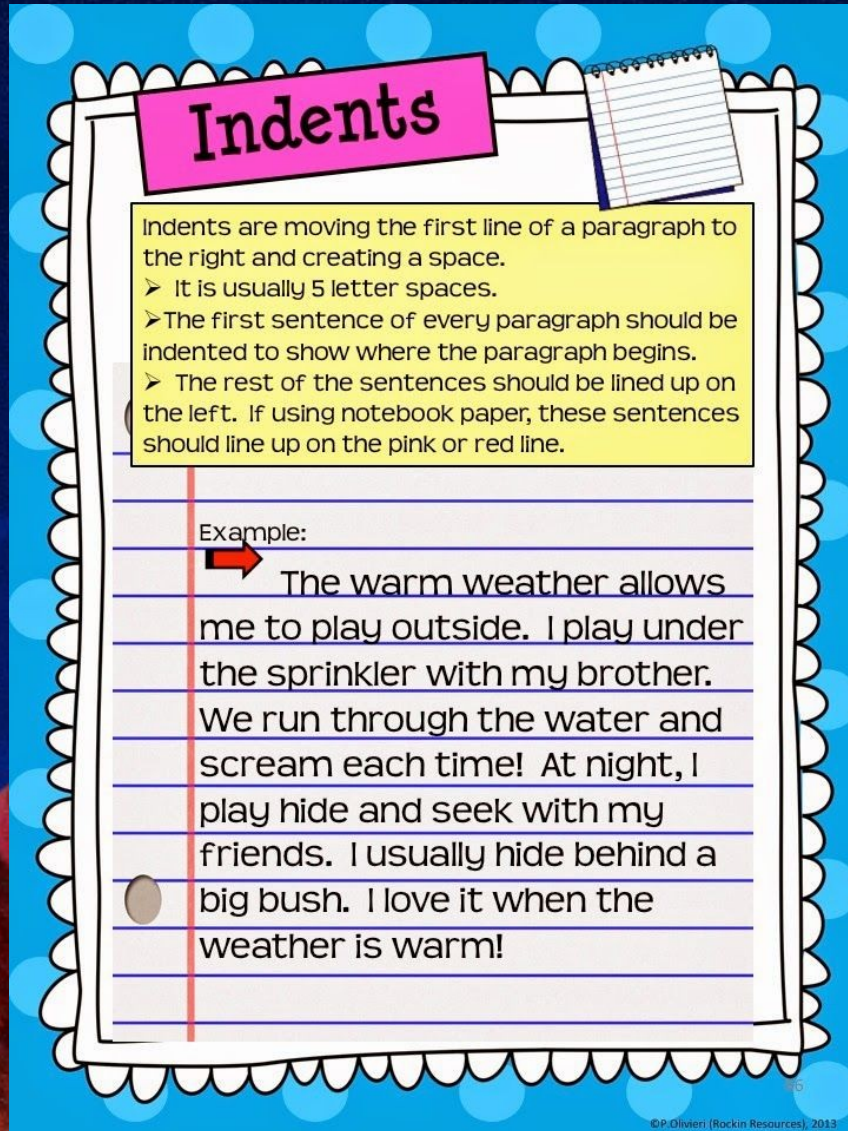
□ Well organized details

- Spatial
- Chronological
- Importance
- logical

□ A clear, sensible connection

□ Linkers/connectors

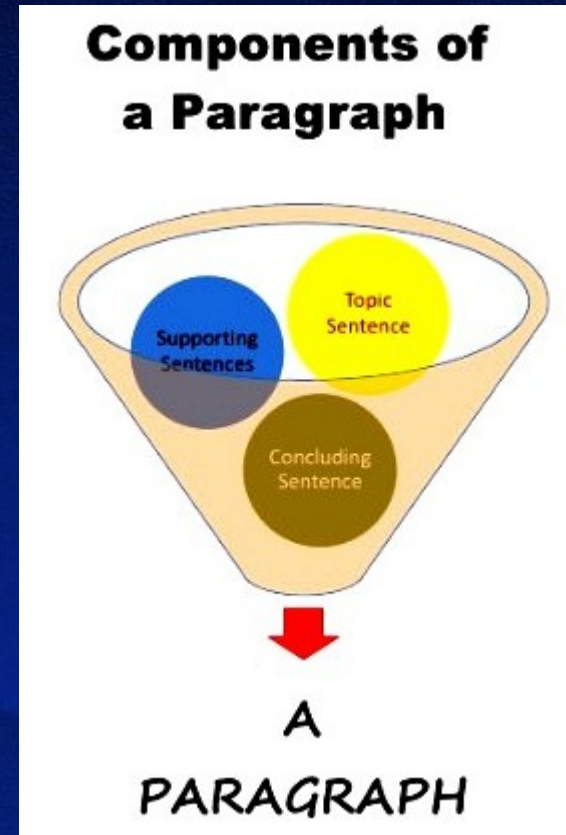
How to indent a paragraph



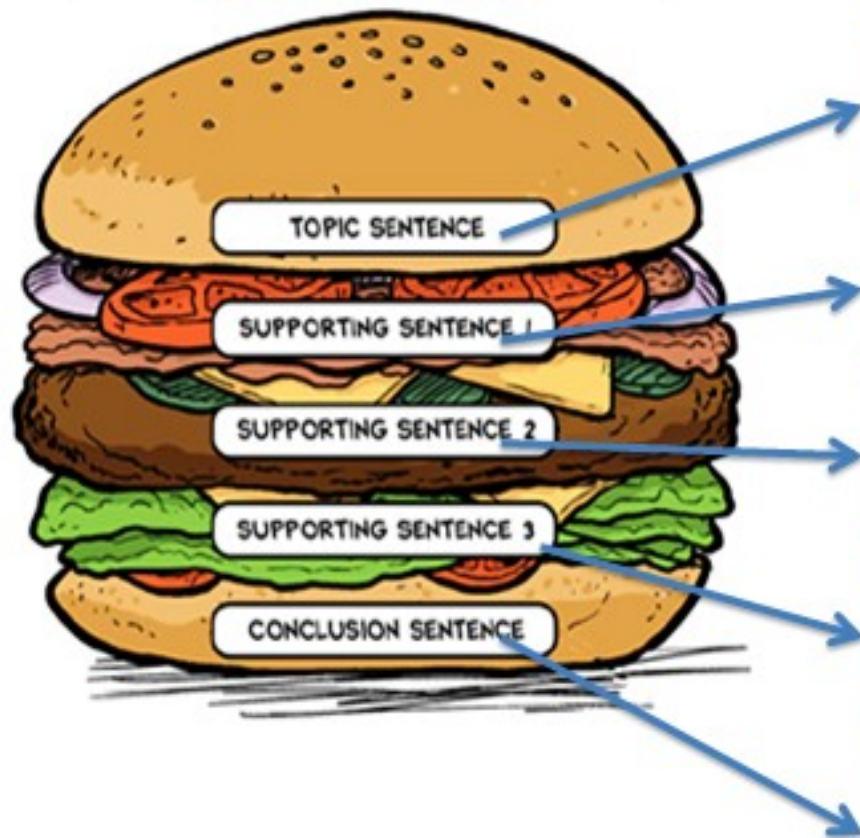
- To **indent** the first line of a **paragraph**, put your cursor at the beginning of the **paragraph** and press the tab key. When you press Enter to start the next **paragraph**, its first line will be **indented**.

Components of Paragraph

- Topic sentence
- Supporting Sentences
- Concluding sentence



Hamburger paragraph



Parts of a Paragraph

Topic Sentence: This sentence tells the reader the main idea, or what the paragraph will be about.

Supporting Sentence One: This sentence gives specific details relating to the main idea.

Supporting Sentence Two: This sentence gives another specific detail relating to the main idea.

Supporting Sentence Three: This sentence gives more specific details relating to the main idea.

Concluding Sentence: This sentence refers to the topic sentence and sums up the main idea of the paragraph.

A hamburger (also burger for short) is a sandwich consisting of one or more cooked patties of ground meat, usually beef, placed inside a sliced bread roll or bun. The patty may be pan fried, grilled, smoked or flame broiled. ... A hamburger topped with cheese is called a cheeseburger.

Topic Sentence

What is a topic sentence?

- The main idea in the paragraph. Most probably, it comes in the first sentence of a paragraph.
- Topic sentence is the most general and most important sentence of the paragraph.
 - In the given example paragraph, we can easily understand the topic or main idea of the paragraph is “**Online Education**”.

What does a topic sentence contain?

- The topic: what the paragraph is about
 - The main controlling idea: the writer's attitude or idea about the topic
 - In the given example, the main controlling idea or writer's attitude is showing online education ,how beneficial to everyone.

Topic Sentence

TOPIC SENTENCES



MAIN STREET

A complete sentence that expresses the main idea of a paragraph.

Answers questions like why, how, or where.	Has supporting sentences or relevant details.	Can prove, explain, or describe something.
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Topic Sentences: Good Examples

TOPIC SENTENCE

Trees are useful to us. They clean the air around us. On a hot day, they give us shade. We can use their wood to build our homes. Trees also help to keep the environment fresh. They provide us oxygen.

Criteria for a Good Topic Sentence

- Shows an opinion rather than a fact

❑ ❑ **You can get a Bajaj Ceiling fan**

- **for only Rs300/- .It can run years without any trouble. (This is a fact)**

❑ ❑ **One factor that contributes to the success of Bajaj is low price and good**

- **quality. (Formed opinion)**

Criteria for a Good Topic Sentence

- Gives one main idea

❑❑ **Successful leaders are passionate and resourceful. (Two ideas)**

❑❑ **Successful leaders are passionate.**

❑❑ **Successful leaders are resourceful.**

Criteria for a Good Topic Sentence

- States the writer's opinion in an objective way

- ☐ ☐ **I think smoking causes cancer. (“I think”/ “I like” is difficult to develop)**

- ☐ ☐ **Smoking should be banned because it is hazardous to human health.**



Practice

□ Identify the topic and controlling ideas in the following topic sentences

1) Parents can help their children be successful in school by encouraging them.

2) The Internet is a very useful tool for college students.

3) Using a cell phone while driving is dangerous.

4) Watching TV is a good way to learn spoken English.

Women



A special woman I know



My Mother



My mother at her
seventeenth

too general

You can get confused to
develop your paragraph
because it's too broad.



You can easily develop it
into a paragraph

specific

Supporting Sentences

SUPPRTING SENTENCES

Pokhara is an amazing place to visit. First, it is a place known for its scenic beauty. Also, Pokhara offers a range of adventure activities for the visitors. In addition, you get to visit exotic places within the city. These features make Pokhara a truly amazing place well worth a visit.

Adding Details to Supporting Sentences

ADDING DETAILS

Pokhara is an amazing place to visit. *First, it is place known for its scenic beauty. You get to see the clear views snow-capped mountains like Annapurna and Dhaulagiri from here. The scene of the reflection of Machapuchre peak on the waters of Fewa Lake below is simply mesmerizing. Also, Pokhara offers a range of adventure activities for the visitors. You can go hang-gliding, do bungy jumps or take a boating trip. activities for the visitors. In addition, you get to visit exotic places within the city. You can explore caves like Mahendra Cave and Bat Cave, visit the mysterious Devi's Falls or peer down the eerie Seti gorge. These features make Pokhara a truly amazing place well worth a visit.*

Process of Writing

- Gather - relevant information
- Organize - meaningful sequence
- Draft - first/rough draft
- Edit - check, revise, refine
- Publish - final version

Practice

- Write two-three sentences of possible support for each of the following topic sentences:
 - 1) Parents can help their children be successful in school by encouraging them.
 - 2) The most obvious reason to recycle waste is to save resources.
 - 3) Using a cell phone while driving is dangerous.
 - 4) Watching TV is a good way to learn spoken English.

REFERENCE ANSWERS

- (1) Parents can help their children be successful in school by encouraging them.

Support:

Parents can encourage them to study by buying them story books with pictures...

Parents can encourage children to study efficiently by rewarding them when they get an "A"...

Parents can ... by asking their children to teach them what they have learned.

REFERENCE ANSWERS

(2) The most obvious reason to recycle waste is to save resources.

Support:

- a. save trees by collecting and recycling old paper
- b. save aluminum, a limited mineral resource from the earth by recycling aluminum cans



REFERENCE ANSWERS

- (3) Using a cell phone while driving is dangerous.

Support:

- a. Drivers with one hand on the wheel may not be able to control it.
- b. Drivers may not hear sounds of other vehicles immediately
- c. Drivers may not react quickly in an emergency when attention is distracted

REFERENCE ANSWERS

- (4) Watching TV is a good way to learn spoken English.

Support:

- a. News use current vocabulary and show pictures
- b. Soap operas and talk shows include conversations
- c. TV shows and commercials often show speakers' faces up close.

Concluding Sentence

1) T: The biggest change in job-hunting these days is the use of the Internet.

C: Clearly, job hunting is not what it used to be.

(2)T: Going to college can be expensive.

- C: The fees never seem to end.

(3)T: The Internet is a very useful tool for college students.

- C: The Internet is useful to college students in many ways.

SOME COMMON PROBLEMS

- ❑ Topic sentence is not written or not effectively written.
- ❑ Support is not concrete, just restatements of the same idea
- ❑ Support is only partly relevant or not relevant at all
- ❑ Too many ideas are covered in a paragraph.
- ❑ Concluding sentence is on a new point not mentioned in the support.

Linkers

Cause & Effect

- ▶ as a result
- ▶ because
- ▶ hence
- ▶ since
- ▶ so

Importance

- ▶ at first
- ▶ last
- ▶ least
- ▶ most important
- ▶ next

Similarity

- ▶ also
- ▶ another
- ▶ and
- ▶ in addition to
- ▶ like

Difference

- ▶ although
- ▶ but
- ▶ however
- ▶ instead
- ▶ Though

Place

- ▶ above
- ▶ around
- ▶ behind
- ▶ here
- ▶ Nearby

Time

- ▶ after
- ▶ before
- ▶ then
- ▶ when
- ▶ finally etc. . . .

More Linkers

- ▶ above all
- ▶ additionally
- ▶ although
- ▶ apart from
- ▶ besides
- ▶ especially
- ▶ even
- ▶ for example
- ▶ for instance
- ▶ furthermore
- ▶ further
- ▶ fortunately
- ▶ in contrast
- ▶ in other words
- ▶ in this case
- ▶ in the same way
- ▶ in spite of
- ▶ Indeed
- ▶ more importantly
- ▶ moreover
- ▶ of course
- ▶ on the contrary
- ▶ on the other hand
- ▶ surely
- ▶ similarly
- ▶ such
- ▶ thus
- ▶ whereas etc . . .

Support

- Supporting ideas
- Evidence
- Examples
- Detail

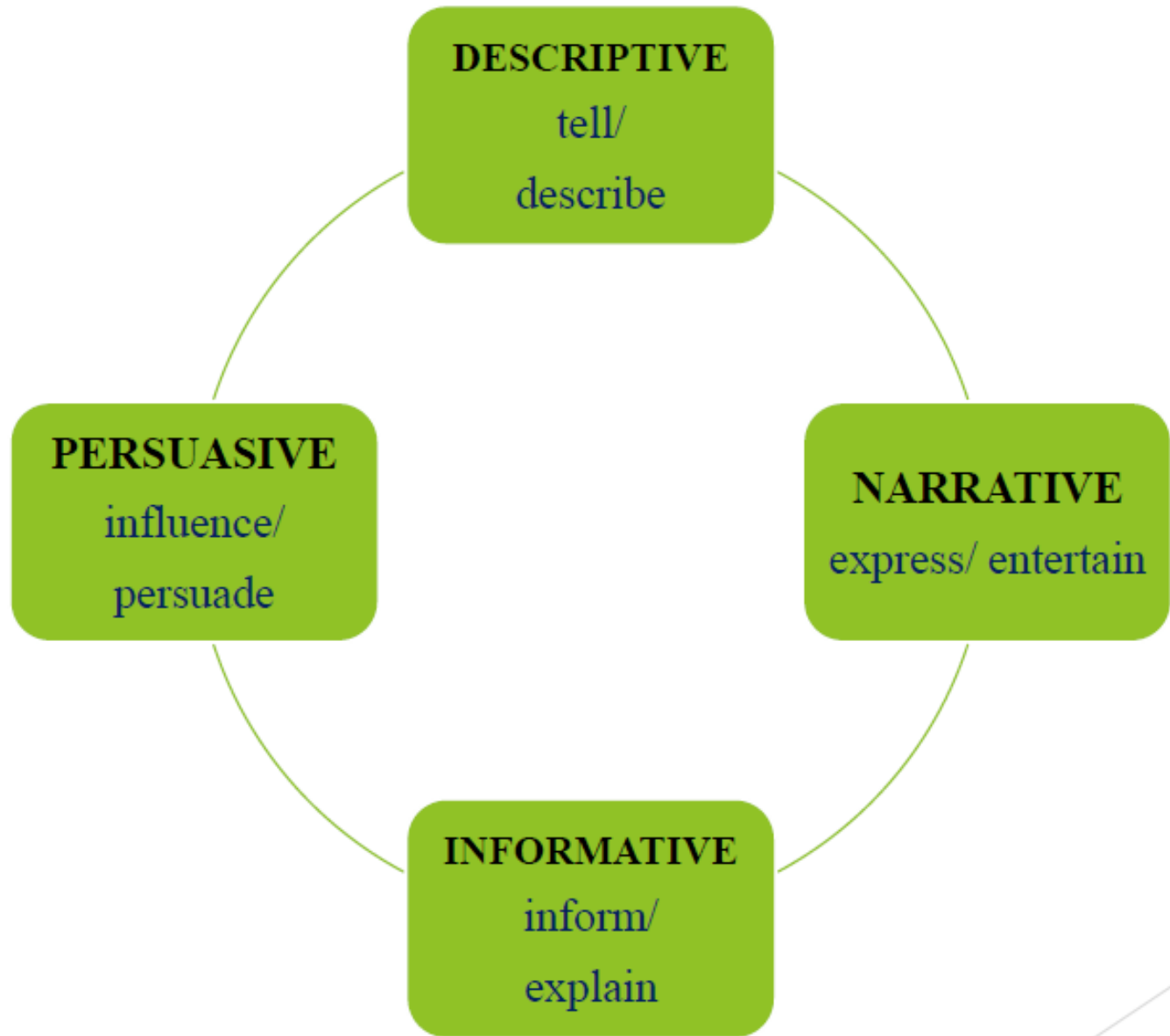


Good Language

- Grammatical Accuracy
- Correct Punctuation
- Apt Vocabulary
- Variety of Structures



Types of Paragraphs



Descriptive Paragraph

- A **descriptive paragraph** describes a thing, a person, or a place. Detailed information allows the reader to form an image in his or her imagination. The better the description, the clearer the image.



Informative Paragraph

Topic

Controlling Idea

Gold, a precious metal, is prized for two important characteristics. First of all, gold has *lustrous*¹ beauty that is resistant to *corrosion*². Therefore, it is suitable for jewelry, coins, and ornamental purposes. Gold never needs to be polished and will remain beautiful forever. For example, a *macedonian*³ coin remains as *untarnished*⁴ today as the day it was *minted*⁵ twenty-three centuries ago. Another important characteristic of gold is its usefulness to industry and science. For many years, it has been used in hundreds of industrial applications. The most recent use of gold is in astronauts' suits. Astronauts wear gold-plated heat shields for protection outside spaceships. In conclusion, gold is treasured not only for its beauty but also for its utility

Red are
supporting
sentences

Conclusion Sentence



Persuasive Paragraph

- A **persuasive paragraph** tries to convince the reader that a particular point of view is worthy of consideration. It wants you to consider both sides of an issue, but it reveals a bias in favour of one side over another.



Narrative Paragraph

- A **narrative paragraph** tells a story. Something happens first, second, third, etc. Of course, **narrative paragraphs** are used in fiction as a writer describes the unfolding of events, but they are also found when describing any actual sequence of activity.



Tips for Paragraph Structure





Point

- Your first sentence must state your point.
- It introduces the topic you're about to discuss and tells the reader what the paragraph is going to be about.
- This is sometimes called a topic sentence.



Explanation

- This is where you show your understanding by explaining in more detail about your opening point.
- You should use relevant terminology and ideas that reiterate and expand upon your point.



Example

- Support your point with relevant evidence and examples.
- Evidence can include facts, statistics, or details of a case study.



Link

- The last sentence should reinforce your original point or link your writing to the specific question you are addressing.
- The link sentence can also provide a transition to the next topic or paragraph.

Thank You

